

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 EB-07 FAA-00 DOTE-00  
TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
/085 W

-----071271 151753Z /46

R 151600Z JUL 77  
FM USMISSION USBERLIN  
TO AMEMBASSY BONN  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4923  
EMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USBERLIN 1881

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, EAIR, WB, GW, GE  
SUBJECT: RESCUE FLIGHTS: LOOKING FOR A SOLUTION

REF: USBERLIN 1852

SUMMARY. RESCUE FLIGHTS BETWEEN THE FRG AND SCHOENEFELD  
AIRPORT SPONSORED BY DEUTSCHE RETTUNGSFLUGWACHT (DRW) ON  
JULY 1, 6 AND 12 ARE AN UNPLEASANT REMINDER THAT ALLIES ARE  
STILL UNABLE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE CIVILIAN AIR RESCUE SERVICE  
FOR THEIR OWN SECTORS OF BERLIN, WHILE GDR IS UNDESERVEDLY  
BASKING IN PRAISE OFFERED BY WEST AS WELL AS EAST PRESS  
FOR PERMITTING RESCUE FLIGHTS TO SCHOENEFELD CARRYING  
FRG CITIZENS. NONETHELESS, ALLIES IN BERLIN BELIEVE  
A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO PROBLEM CAN BE FOUND. BERLIN  
SENAT HAS PROVIDED ALLIES WITH A DRAFT VERMERK DATED JUNE 30  
CONTAINING STILL-TENTATIVE BUT PROMISING PROPOSAL THAT  
SENAT WILL PICK UP ADDITIONAL COSTS INCURRED BY USING  
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ALLIED AIRCRAFT FOR RESCUE FLIGHTS RATHER THAN THE  
FRG, SWISS, AUSTRIAN, AND GDR AIRCRAFT WHICH DRW NOW  
TENDS TO HIRE. IN ALLIED VIEW HERE, FIRST STEP IS FOR  
ALLIES TO CONTACT DRW DIRECTLY TO EXPLORE FULLY REASONS  
IT DOES NOT USE ALLIED AIRCRAFT. ALLIED MISSIONS IN  
BERLIN HAVE AGREED TO RECOMMEND THAT EMBASSIES  
DESIGNATE ONE OF THEIR NUMBER TO VISIT DRW IN STUTTGART

IN ORDER EXPLORE FULLY THE REASONS DRW HAS GENERALLY DECLINED TO USE ALLIED AIRCRAFT FOR BERLIN RESCUE FLIGHTS AND TO EXPLAIN ALLIED CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED. MIS- SIONS PROPOSE ALSO THAT FRG AND BERLIN SENAT BE INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF VISIT AND ITS PURPOSE. END SUMMARY.

1. DRAFT SENAT VERMERK OF JUNE 30 STILL UNDER CON- SIDERATION WITHIN THE SENAT INDICATES THAT USING ALLIED AIRCRAFT IN RESUCE FLIGHTS TO AND FROM WEST BERLIN OFTEN INVOLVES HIGHER COSTS THAN COMPARABLE SCHOENEFELD FLIGHTS BECUASE OF "UNFAVORABLE LOCATION OF BASES" AND "HIGHER PERSONNEL COSTS" OF ALLIED CARRIERS. IN ADDITION, VERMERK CLAIMS ALLIED AIR- PLANES ARE NOT ALWAYS AVAILABLE QUICKLY ENOUGH. DRW, ACCORDING TO SENAT, HAS REPEATEDLY DECLARED ITS INTENTION TO CONTINUE FLYING TO SCHOENEFELD IN THE FUTURE IN THE ABSENCE OF GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. THE FRG, IN A DEPARTMENTAL CONFERENCE ON APRIL 18, 1977 RECOUNTED IN VERMERK, DECIDED TO DECLINE TO PAY THE ADDITIONAL COSTS INCURRED BY DRW-CHARTERED DAN AIR RESCUE FLIGHT FROM TEL AVIV TO TEGEL AIRPORT ON FEBRUARY 10, 1977. DRAFT VERMERK, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WAS DRAWN UP BY MAYOR (AND SENATOR FOR ECONOMICS) LUEDER'S OFFICE, CALLS FOR THE SENAT TO PICK UP THE 7,500 DM ADDITIONAL COST WHICH THE DRW REPORTEDLY INCURRED BY USING DAN AIR RATHER THAN NON-ALLIED CARRIER  
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IN TEL AVIV CASE, AS WELL AS SENAT REIMBURSEMENT ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS FOR MINIMUM ONE YEAR PERIOD OF THE PROVABLE ADDITIONAL COSTS INCURRED BY USE OF ALLIED CARRIERS FOR RESCUE FLIGHTS TO WEST BERLIN. REIMBURSEMENT WOULD BE LIMITED TO 30 PERCENT OF TOTAL COST OF FLIGHT OR MAXIMUM OF 10,000 DM, WHICHEVER IS LESS. REIMBURSEMENT PROPOSAL IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION BY SENAT; OUR INFORMATION IS THAT SENATOR FOR FINANCE KLAUS RIEBSCHLAEGER HA SPROBLEMS WITH IT BECAUSE OF EXTRA COSTS INVOLVED.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USBERLIN 1881

2. WHILE SENAT'S EFFORT TO SOLVE AIR RESCUE PROBLEM IS ENCOURAGING, WE BELIEVE ALLIES NEED MORE HARD FACTS FROM DRW BEFORE DECIDING ON PROPER APPROACH. THESE HAVE LARGELY BEEN LACKING UP TO NOW. (INDDDED, DRW'S "REPEATED DECLARATIONS" THAT IT WOULD CONTINUE TO USE SCHOENEFELD, AS MENTIONED IN DRAFT SENAT VERMERK, ARE NEWS TO US). ALLIED CONTACTS WITH DRW SO FAR HAVE BEEN AT THIRD AND FOURTH HAND VIA BERLIN SENAT, AUSWAERTIGES AMT, FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY, ETC. DIRECT MEETING WITH DRW, AS RECOMMENDED HEREIN, WOULD ENABLE ALLIES TO INSURE THAT THEIR VIEWS ARE AMDE KNOWN CORRECTLY AND FULLY TO DRW AND WOULD GIVE SOUND INFORMATIONAL BASIS FOR SEEKING REASONABLE SOLUTIONS. THE SENAT HAS INFORMED US THAT THE DIRECTOR OF DRW IS A DIFFICULT PERSON TO DEAL WITH. HE SET UP THE DRW ON HIS OWN INTITATIVE AFTER THE DEATH IN AN CONFIDENTIAL

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ACCIDENT OF HIS ONLY SON AND DOES NOT HOLD ANY BRIEF FOR OTHER THAN PURELY HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS.

3. IN A VISIT WITH DRW, THERE WOULD BE SOME SPECIFIC QUESTIONS THAT WE THINK WOULD MERIT DISCUSSION. FOR EXAMPLE, IT IS NOT AT ALL CLEAR TO US WHY ALLIED AIR RESCUE SERVICES USCH AS L'EUROPE ASSISTANCE AND ST. JOHN'S AMBULANCE SERVICE SHOULD NECESSARILY BE COSTLIER THAN SWISS OR TOTHER NON-ALLIED SERVICES, NOW WHY ALLIED CARRIERS SHOULD BE LESS READILY

AVAILABLE. DRW, ACCORDING TO THE SENAT, HAS FRG AND SWISS AIRCRAFT AND PILOTS UNDER CONTRACT SPECIFICALLY FOR AIR RESCUES. PART OF DRW'S USE OF THESE SERVICES MAY, WE SPECULATE, STEM FROM DESIRE TO RETAIN LONG-TERM ARRANGEMENTS WITH GERMAN-SPEAKING ORGANIZATIONS RATHER THAN FROM COST FACTORS ALONE. ADDITIONAL POINT FOR DISCUSSION IS THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF MEDICAL SERVICES REQUIRED ON BOARD RESCUE AIRCRAFT AND THE ABILITY OF VARIOUS CARRIERS TO PROVIDE THEM. PANAM, FOR INSTANCE, CAN PROVIDE STRETCHER SPACE IN ITS REGULARLY-SCHEDULED FLIGHTS TO BERLIN; OBVIOUSLY, THIS WOULD BE INSUFFICIENT FOR THE KIND OF GRAVELY INJURED PERSONS CARRIED ON THE JULY 1 FLIGHT, BUT PANAM HAS CARRIED STRETCHER PATIENTS WITH INJURY AS SERIOUS AS BROKEN NECK AS RECENTLY AS MARCH 10 (USBERLIN 819). (BERLIN AIR MAY EVENTUALLY BE ABLE TO HELP WITH LESS SERIOUSLY ILL PATIENTS, BUT ITS ESTABLISHMENT SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM, SINCE THERE ARE NO GUARANTEES THAT DRW WILL AVAIL ITSELF OF BERLIN AIR SERVICES, OR THAT BERLIN AIR WILL HAVE THE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT TO HANDLE THE SERIOUSLY ILL.)

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4. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT BONN EMBASSIES ARRANGE FOR ONE OF THEIR MEMBERS TO MAKE INFORMATION VISIT TO DRW IN STUTTGART AND THAT EMBASSIES ADVISE FRG OF VISIT AND AUTHORIZE ALLIED MISSIONS IN BERLIN TO ADVISE SENAT SIMILARLY. GEORGE

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## Message Attributes

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**Type:** TE  
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